

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6497

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FOR THE SECRETARY AND SISCO FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR JO US

SUBJECT: TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER RIFAI-- KING'S VISIT TO THE US

SUMMARY: RIFAI WISHES TO NAIL DOWN SOME FINAL DATES FOR KING'S US VISIT. PREFERRED TIME FOR WASHINGTON VISIT IS TUESDAY, MARCH 30- SUNDAY, APRIL 4. HE HOPES THAT WE CAN CONFIRM THAT IT WOULD BE CONVENIENT FOR KING TO CALL ON PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY SOMETIME DURING THIS PERIOD. IF MORE FLEXIBILITY REQUIRED, KING CAN BE IN WASHINGTON AS EARLY AS MARCH 26 OR 27. END SUMMARY.

1. RIFAI SAID KING'S TRAVEL DATES FOR AUSTRALIA HAVE NOW BEEN CONFIRMED AND HE WILL BE THERE FROM MARCH 3 TO MARCH 10 TO BE FOLLOWED BY TRAVEL TO JAPAN MARCH 10 THROUGH MARCH 17. RIFAI SAID THEY WOULD NOW VERY MUCH LIKE TO COME FROM JAPAN TO HAWAII ON MARCH 17 FOR A FEW DAYS REST, DEPARTING FROM THERE FOR MEXICO ON OR ABOUT MARCH 24. MEXICANS HAVE BEEN PRESSING VERY HARD FOR A VISIT AND INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE FREE TO RECEIVE THE KING UNTIL AFTER ANOTHER COMPETING VISIT HAD CLEARED MEXICO CITY ON MARCH 24. KING WOULD STAY IN MEXICO UNTIL MARCH 26 OR 27 WHEN UNDER PREFERRED ARRANGMENT HE WOULD GO TO WEST COAST FOR A SPEECH FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER IN CHICAO. HE WOULD ARRIVE THEN IN WASHINGTON ON MARCH 30 AND STAY THROUGH THE 4TH OR 5TH.

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2. RIFAI EMPHASIZED THAT THE JORDANIANS COUD BE FLEXIBLE AND COULD CHANGE THEIR WEST COAST PLANS TO MEET THOSE OF THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE SECRETARY. I TOLD RIFAI THAT I WOULD INFORM YOU IMMEDIATELY AND SEEK A REACTION HOPEFULLY BEFORE I LEAVE AMMAN FOR CONSULTATION ON JANUARY 3.

3. IN TERMS OF ADDITIONAL DETAILS RIFAI SAID HE HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE IN HAWAII TO ARRANGE FOR KING'S STAY ON ONE OF THE OTHER ISLANDS AS THAT PORTION OF THE TRIP WAS DESIGNATED TO PROVIDE REST AND RECUPERATION BETWEEN AUSTRALIA DN JAPAN ON THE ONE HAND AND MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES ON THE OTHER. RIFAI WAS NOT SURE WHETHER THE KING WOULD WISH TO HAVE HIS REGULAR MEDICAL CHECKUP AT WALTER REED BUT HOPED THAT IT COULD BE DONE POSSIBLY ON APRIL 3-4 WEEKEND IF KING WISHED TO DO SO. I HOPED TO DICUSS ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF THE VISIT WHEN IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK.
PICKERING

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